

# Penketh Pages

December 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We've made another fantastic start to the year at Penketh, building on improvements driven across the school last year. There has been an exceptionally positive focus on the learning scores of pupils as we work with them to further increase the learning focus of the school and develop a culture based on shared responsibility. A culture of high expectations that is in line with the capabilities of pupils and one in which they understand their own responsibilities towards learning.

This year, to further develop the school, we have introduced additional elements with a view to increasing engagement, broadening pupil horizons and enhancing focus on pathways and next steps. The move to a singular lunch has enabled us to develop a range of enrichment sessions for pupils to access across this part of the day, with 54 enrichment sessions running across a two week rotation. These range from academically focused sessions such as Chinese Mandarin, Latin, unity coding club or homework club to sporting or recreational activities such as golf, running club, chess club, board game club and various art clubs. Uptake has been extremely pleasing and, in some cases, pupils who have taken to these are keen to undertake more immersive experiences through qualifications or entries to competitions.

Another key aspect of engagement is through pupil voice, providing the opportunity and forum for pupils to represent their peers, contribute to decision making and help inform developments at the school. This is incredibly important to me as driving improvement at the school requires us to work towards collective goals. Pupils are incredibly important in helping us to shape the school, it's their school and so it's important that we provide the platform that enables them to contribute. The newly formed Pupil Leadership Team offers over 130 pupils the chance to represent their form, year group or whole school on a number of issues through various committees that are aligned with key groups within the schools' leadership team.

These are only two examples of developments at the school and there have already been a number of notable achievements this year. I'm pleased to say that the Penketh Pages for this term is attached to this letter which provides further information for parents.

I feel it's important to note and congratulate both Year 10 and Year 11 on the manner in which they conducted themselves in the recent mock examinations. Pupils demonstrated a mature attitude showing commitment and dedication to their studies and we were proud of their application, which was praised by the exam and invigilation team.

The school have been working on a new website to be launched in the last week of term which we hope parents will find more user friendly. We'd also recommend following the school @PenkethSchool via Twitter; this account is updated daily and gives regular insight into life at school. You don't need to be a Twitter member to access by searching through Google and our new website has the Twitter feed embedded on the homepage.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish pupils and families all the very best across the holiday period and for the new year and I look forward to welcoming pupils back for the start of the new term on the 7th of January 2019.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Carlin.  
Principal.

# SPARK

AT PENKETH



Penketh Pages  
December 2018

## TCT Show Visit

CREATE Education delivered the Inspired Minds Event at the 2018 TCT Show, supported by their partners Autodesk and Bloodhound Education. The TCT Show is one of the world's leading design-to-manufacturing events focused on additive manufacturing, 3D printing, design and engineering technology, with over 300 exhibitors and 10000+ visitors. The show took place over 3 days in September and during this time over 300 students from 12 schools were invited to participate in the Inspired Minds Event. We were lucky to be one of the 12 schools invited along to the event.

The aim of Inspired Minds is to introduce students to Additive Manufacturing technology, industries, applications and potential career paths. By providing access to an event such as the TCT show it is hoped that students will be inspired to pursue a career in engineering or additive manufacturing.

During the event our students participated in the following activities:

### 1. Introduction to Industrial Additive Manufacturing

An introductory presentation about 3D printing and the industrial applications, where students had the opportunity to question the expert, look at 3D models and learn more about 3D printing careers. This included a case study of 3D printing in the Bloodhound Supersonic Car and engineering careers resources were provided to students and teachers.

### 2. Inspired Minds Classroom Workshop

In this practical workshop, students worked in teams to design a set of lightweight wheels for the Bloodhound Supersonic Car using Autodesk Fusion 360 professional 3D modelling software. Then they were introduced to Cura software and sliced and prepared their models for 3D printing. The wheels were 3D printed and students were provided with a Bloodhound Balloon car kit. This allowed students to assemble their car, attach their 3D printed wheels and race the cars back in school.

### 3. TCT Show Tour

Finally, students followed a self-guided tour of the TCT show. This allowed them to experience the excitement of this industry, visiting different exhibitors and question them on their technology, products and careers opportunities. The TCT show tour provided was the perfect opportunity for the students to experience what the best of the industry has to offer and encourage the next generation of possible manufacturers, scientists, engineers and designers to take up a career in this fascinating industry.



# SPARK

AT PENKETH



Penketh Pages  
December 2018

Since launching the first makerspace housed within UK state school, SPARK has provided numerous opportunities for our pupils to engage in additional learning to supplement and extend their classroom based learning. These additional opportunities provide us with much needed scope to deliver content and involve pupils in learning strands not covered in the curriculum. More often than not this has "sparked" passion for learning and a curiosity for all aspects of the STEM agenda. We've also been fortunate to be able to extend these opportunities to some of our feeder primary schools and also to the wider local community.

## SNOWBOTS

We've been fortunate enough to work closely with Warrington LiveWire Libraries to offer some FREE digital creative workshops. These sessions, conducted by SPARK @ Penketh were offered to everyone through Orford Library. We're passionate about providing everyone with the opportunity to digitally upskill and extend their learning beyond classroom based subjects. Whilst our pupils are lucky to have this opportunity at Penketh, the first state school to open a makerspace, we're pleased to be able to extend these opportunities to the wider Warrington community.



## Primary Partners

It's always pleasing to be able to work with other local schools and collaborate to provide young people in our community with opportunities to engage in learning. Working with Great Sankey Primary to set up a coding club for their pupils has been very rewarding and well received, with the club being oversubscribed! Work to establish a coding club in another local primary is well underway!

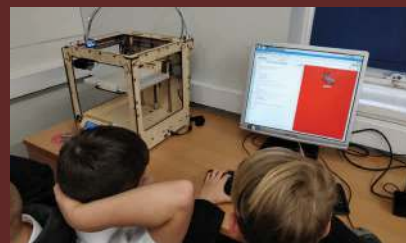


## SPARK in the Curriculum

This year, pupils across Year 7 –10 have been able to access digital upskilling sessions as part of their classroom based learning. For an hour each half term pupils have challenged themselves in engaging with concepts and learning opportunities not offered by traditional classroom based learning. First up this half term was rapid prototyping, with pupils being able to design and then refine a digital product. This focuses on learning characteristics with an emphasis on resilience; getting things wrong but persevering to achieve a goal.



In the second half term has allowed pupils to open our new Raspberry Pi lab. Raspberry-Pis are affordable mini-computers that provide pupils with an environment to learn about coding and digital creation.



These digital taster sessions allow us to stretch pupil understanding and expose them to learning that can broaden their horizons. Already, since pupils have accessed SPARK they have started enrichment sessions offered through the makerspace in school and have started to give serious consideration about careers in these areas. Giving pupils aspirations and areas of focus to help support their engagement in learning has been a key goal of the SPARK programme.



# Enrichment @ Penketh



Penketh Pages  
December 2018

As a school we recognise the importance of academically developing our young people in order that they have a solid foundation with which to continue to succeed beyond their time at Penketh. The school have increased our learning focus across last year and it was pleasing that we achieved the school's best outcome for 3 years. We're also extremely committed to developing our pupils holistically, providing them with opportunities and experiences that extend their learning beyond their standard curriculum, this helps with engagement and to prepare them for life at college or university. These experiences can also help to broaden horizons and cement life long passions.

## Lunchtime Enrichment

The school were keen to be able to offer pupils an enhanced lunchtime experience and access to clubs and enrichment sessions to make this part of the day more productive or engaging. We also have a wide and varied set of skills and talents amongst our staff who were keen to offer enrichment experiences within these areas. Across the first term of the year 54 different enrichment clubs have been available to pupils ranging from Chess Club, Chinese Mandarin and Latin to running club, golf, badminton, debate club, homework club, unity coding club and knitting club amongst many others. There are even more clubs planned for next term and pupils will be able to sign up when they return in January.



## P-FACTOR

The school held it's annual P Factor event this term providing pupils from all year groups with the chance to perform a solo piece. The contestants all dream of being crowned P Factor champion for the year, though prizes are awarded to the winner, runner-up and also best new comer for a pupil who is new to school performances. The standard of performance was incredible and both the judges and the audience were treated to an amazing night. Well done to Alex, Macy, Matt and all those involved!

## TCAT CONCERT

All of the schools from The Challenge Academy Trust collaborated to put on a concert at the end of November. The event, at the Parr Hall, was an incredible show with each school contributing a number of performances. Our own choir performed at the show as did our Y11 GCSE Music group. The standard of performance across the evening was incredible and further demonstrates the incredible talents of our outstanding young people.



# Pupil Leadership Team



Penketh Pages  
December 2018

## Mexican Visit

The school were thrilled to welcome some visitors from Mexico to the school this half term. The group on a cultural exchange with a local church provided the pupils with an opportunity to exchange cultural experiences and develop a wider understanding of how life for young people in other countries differs from their own. Our visitors delivered some lessons in Geography, Spanish and Learning for Life before meeting with our Pupil Leadership Team. Our new Mexican friends really enjoyed their visit and we'd like to wish them well on their journey home.



## Time Capsule

The recent construction works at ASDA Westbrook uncovered a time capsule that had been buried by Penketh High students and ASDA staff over twenty years ago. Unfortunately, the conditions underground meant that a large amount of the contents buried had been damaged leaving only a few recognisable items which included a school pen, jumper, a newspaper article about the Spice Girls and some ASDA staff uniform items. Members of the school Pupil Leadership Team were invited along to inspect the findings and as a result decided to collate their own time capsule which was buried by the current contractors as part of the works. Pupils were keen to ensure that the contents of their capsule survived a little longer so hope the protective materials will provide better protection from the elements!

## Pupil Leadership Team

Having had a successful Student Council over recent years and valuing pupil contribution to school life, we wanted to enhance the opportunities available for pupils to represent their fellow students. The new Pupil Leadership Team widens the scope of our pupil representation and, significantly, includes sub-committees that can contribute pupil voice around matters such as transition, rewards, community, pupil care, enrichment and academic performance. Pupils wishing to represent the main PLT board had to apply and interview for positions in what was an extremely competitive process. Lewis in Year 11 and Caitlin in Year 9 were appointed as President and Vice President of the PLT and are ably assisted by 135 pupils in total, meaning that 15% of our pupils have been appointed to represent our student body. The various committees and sub-committees meet regularly and the full PLT have already met for a breakfast meeting with the Principal with some really impressive strategies being tabled by pupils. The Pupil Leadership Team also represented our pupils during their first official engagement, presenting at our recent parental forum.





# Careers, Advice and Guidance



Penketh Pages  
December 2018

## Entrepreneurs

Andrew Hibbert, local entrepreneur and owner of Real5 Networking group came in to school to talk about becoming an entrepreneur and the journey he has undertaken to be a success in Warrington. He invited 4 lucky students to attend his networking event in November. The students seized the opportunity from posing questions to Andrew which he felt were outstanding and the result of a lot of thought and effort.

Dan, Sophie, Emerson and Weronika represented Penketh High School perfectly. They supported Andrew in setting up the event, experienced the business discussions and then circulated asking local entrepreneurs plenty of questions about how to start a business, ups and downs of being an entrepreneur as well as networking to set up work experience. They are all now members of Real5 Networking group and the feedback was outstanding; "the students are very mature and focused, they are all dedicated to business and their futures". Andrew said " they are a credit to Miss Madden and Penketh High School".

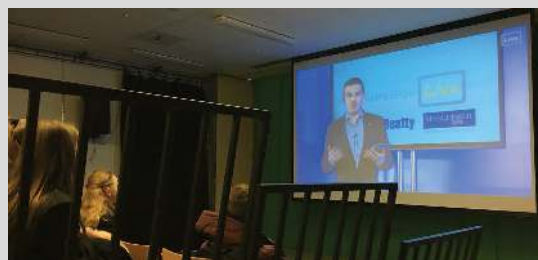


## Construction - LIVE

Our new careers drive involves us working with pupils for them to think about "The Big Dream". The career aspirations that they have and what it is they'd like to achieve beyond school. We want to provide pupils with the very best support during their time at Penketh to help them achieve these aspirations.

"The Big Dream" strategy gives us the opportunity to understand the type of industry pupils would like to enter and provide them with opportunities to engage with representatives from these industries to best support pupil understanding of these sectors.

Over 80 Pupils who expressed an interest in the construction industry were able to attend a webinar by Balfour Beatty who explored different careers within the industry and entry routes. We're pleased that as a result of this event Balfour Beatty have offered to come into school in the new year and provide bespoke events for Penketh pupils.



## EasyPet Branding

Helen Davies, local entrepreneur and Buy It Now celebrity set students an amazing business challenge of creating a slogan or strapline for her brand Easypets.

Helen firstly shared her experiences of setting up in business, the highs and lows, reiterating the point of building resilience and never giving up. Helen went on to share her experience of starring on Buy It Now and how she successfully secured orders for her silicone based children's weaning products.

Helen said "I read through all of the submissions. They were real fun to read. I actually went over them twice in case I missed anything, a few stood out as having really grasped the task."

Dan from Year 9 was the overall winner and he was awarded a £50 Odeon voucher. Daniel wrote an excellent "ideal customer" analysis showing a good grasp of the brief, product range and intended audience. The slogan Dan came up with was "Pawsitively Easy Travel" and demonstrated that he had listened to the brief and carefully considered the range aimed at travel solutions for pets.

# Penketh



## PRIDE

Our outstanding young people have achieved some amazing things already this year. Here are some of the things we've celebrated together since the last edition in July.

### Jamie's Farm

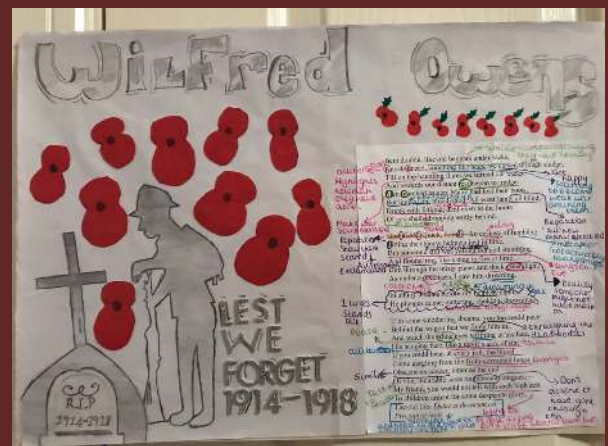
In September, a group of pupils took part in a 5 day residential at Jamie's Farm in Monmouth, Wales. On day one, all mobile phones and electronics were handed in and pupils were prepared for a "back to basics" experience without the distraction of social media, sugar and energy drinks! They worked on farming jobs such as mucking out, tending to the animals or cooking dinner from the freshly grown vegetables in the garden. They worked on the farm from 8am until 6pm and then took part in a challenging 3 to 5 mile walk every day. Evenings consisted of family activities, such as playing games, watching TV or helping to clean up in the kitchen. Over the five days the pupils grew in confidence and showed perseverance and resilience as they overcame obstacles to achieve things they never thought possible. Since our return the farm staff have visited the pupils to share in their successes since returning to school and remind them of what is possible when they put their minds to it. We are all very proud of what they achieved on the farm and the pupils should be too.



### Oxford University

Mrs Mollatt's Year 8 class have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Wilfred Owen competition organised by The University of Oxford. The competition comprised of the class researching Owen and learning about his journey throughout WW1 through his poetry and diary entries. This competition was to mark the centenary of Owen's tragic death in the weeks before the war ended. The pupils produced some fantastic entries for the competition and have thoroughly impressed the Oxford lecturers – Dr Stuart Lee said "I have worked at the University of Oxford for nearly 28 years and it's moments like this that I will remember. Thank you Penketh High School" This is a fantastic achievement, which has really enriched pupils with the history and the importance of WW1 Literature.

The standard of the pupil work was incredible and one of our pupils, Shanae, won one of the "Highly Commended" prizes. Mrs Mollatt, who coordinated the Penketh Entries, was exceptionally proud of her class and of Shanae's winning piece, as are the whole school. We'd like to pass on our congratulations to our Year 8 pupils and to Shanae who should be proud of her achievements in a national academically orientated competition.



# P e n k e t h



## P R I D E

### University Trips

#### Maths Club

A group of 12 Year 11 students were invited to the University of Chester, Warrington Campus to take part in a Maths Club.

Maths Club offers maths support and learning opportunities to improve attainment, confidence and motivation, helping learners attain the best possible grade at GCSE. It's a programme of practical, tried-and-tested maths activities designed to strengthen pupils' understanding of key curricular topics across the ability range (for example fractions, problem-solving, algebra) and enhance their preparation for their GCSE.

#### Study Skills

A group of Year 11 pupils went to the Chester University campus for a study skill and revision day. They were given a tour of the campus which included the library and the gym. We were given information about the other campuses that are part of University of Chester as well as information about finances.

The students took part in activities to learn about managing finances and gaining employment. They were also given ideas on how to revise and given advice around their learning characteristics along with some support and helpful resources.

### Remembrance

We were honoured to be able to represent our young people at this year's local Remembrance service which commemorated 100 years since the end of the Great War. Pupils from the school were keen to pay respects to those from our local community, as well as those from around the world, who have fallen in conflicts. We are a community school and are proud to be part of this community. We were therefore honoured to be asked to lay a wreath during the service at the cenotaph.



### Mary Poppins

This term pupils from the school performed our annual production. This year it was Mary Poppins and over 50 pupils contributed to putting on a spectacular show. The quality was exceptional with many of those in the audience commenting on the professionalism and talent of our outstanding young people!

We were also pleased to be able to welcome some local senior citizens to the performance, with a group of pupils providing an afternoon tea service before the show, which included cakes freshly baked by pupils.



### Regional Maths Winners

We're extremely proud to announce that a group of Year 8 pupils have been crowned regional champions in the NRICH Maths Young Mathematicians Competition. The group will now be competing for a place in the final to be held at Cambridge University. This is a wonderful achievement and we congratulate pupils on their success.